

REMARKS

This application has been further reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 28, 2006. Claims 39 to 44 are now pending in the application, of which Claims 39, 43 and 44 are independent. Claims 24 to 38 have been canceled. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 28, 33 and 38 were objected to for informalities, and Claims 24 to 26, 28 to 31, 33 to 36 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,615,183 (Kolls), and Claims 27, 32 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kolls in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,354 (Crawford). Without conceding the correctness of the objections or the rejections, they are nonetheless believed to be obviated by the cancellation of those claims. However, Applicants submit that newly-added Claims 39 to 44 are allowable over the art of record for at least the following reasons.

The present invention concerns calculating a charge for use of an application to output a file. According to the invention, a user generates a file using the application and the file is transmitted to a file server that then executes output processing on the file. When the output processing is executed, an amount of output product obtained by the output processing is logged, and a charge is calculated for use of the application based on the amount of output product.

With specific reference to the claims, newly-added independent Claim 39 is directed to a print apparatus for holding an application program provided from an application service provider apparatus, comprising downloading means for downloading the application program to a user terminal apparatus, receiving means for receiving, from said user terminal apparatus, a file produced when said user terminal apparatus executes the application program, and a print request of the produced file, discriminating means for discriminating a type of the application program used to produce the file, print processing means for executing print processing of the received file, recording means for recording, in a log, a print amount caused by the print processing, in correspondence with the type of the application program, calculating means for calculating a charge on the basis of a cost for

use of the log and a cost for use of the application program, and notifying means for notifying an accounting management server of the calculated charge, wherein said accounting management server effects processing for sending money to said application service provider apparatus, on the basis of the calculated charge.

Claims 43 and 44 are method and computer storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 39.

The applied art, alone or on any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 39, 43 and 44, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a print apparatus receiving, from a user terminal apparatus, a print request and a file produced when the user terminal apparatus executes an application program downloaded from the print apparatus, discriminating a type of the application program used to produce the file, and calculating a charge on the basis of a cost for use of a log for recording a print amount caused by executing print processing on the received file in correspondence with the discriminated type of application program and a cost for use of the application program.

Kolls is merely seen to disclose that a user can perform print processing, facsimile transmission, email transmissions, etc. on input data and that the user is then charged for the transaction. However, unlike the present invention, Kolls is not seen to download an application program to a user terminal, whereby the user terminal produces a file that is then provided to a print apparatus for printing, and that the print apparatus calculates a charge based on the use of a log in performing print processing and based on a discriminated type of the application program used to produce the file. Instead, Kolls simply charges a user for a particular type of service. Accordingly, the present invention of Claims 39, 43 and 44 is not believed to be anticipated by Kolls.

Crawford is not seen to disclose anything that, when combined with Kolls, would have remedied the foregoing deficiencies of Kolls. Specifically, Crawford is merely seen to disclose charging a client for information on the basis of a unit price per time period (such a per minute or per month) or a unit price per read-amount from a disk.

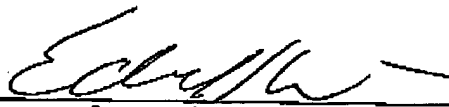
However, Crawford is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Kolls, would have disclosed or suggested at least the features of a print apparatus receiving, from a user terminal apparatus, a print request and a file produced when the user terminal apparatus executes an application program downloaded from the print apparatus, discriminating a type of the application program used to produce the file, and calculating a charge on the basis of a cost for use of a log for recording a print amount caused by executing print processing on the received file in correspondence with the discriminated type of application program and a cost for use of the application program. Accordingly, the proposed combination of Kolls and Crawford would not have rendered the present invention of Claims 39, 43 and 44 obvious.

In view of the foregoing, independent Claims 39, 43 and 44, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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